18. Sanitation and Conservancy—Cranganur—Rs. 3,771.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I beg to move for an allotment of Rs. 3,771 under Sanitation and Conservancy—Cranganur.

The demand was put and carried.

3. Village Panchayats—Rs. 2,62,434.

*Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development):* I move for an allotment of Rs. 2,62,434 for Village Panchayats.

Sir, I want to say a few words of a general nature before I ask the House to grant this allotment. During the general discussion of the budget there has been criticism in my not having furnished the details with regard to the village reconstruction. There are one or two cut motions also with regard to this. I want the House to understand any way the difficulty of preparing an exhaustive budget with regard to village reconstruction. At the same time I want to convey to the House what we mean or what I mean by village reconstruction. The meaning of the word village reconstruction seems to be different for different people. The idea of my friend, who is going to move a total cut, is to put up a new road for the amount granted to that village. In another Panchayat, the idea was to dig up a tank for the amount given. In this way different people in different localities and different Panchayats have different conceptions of village reconstruction. As I have observed on a previous occasion this is a subject new to us. We must be very careful in undertaking any method being new. We must be very cautious and as I do not pretend to be an expert in village reconstruction, I may assure this House that in this matter I have been mainly guided by those who are considered to be experts in village reconstruction, for example, the Rural Development Officer and the other various Heads of Departments. It is true that I too have participated in their discussion and contributed my share, but I was very careful all along not to over-ride their opinion in these matters and as a result of constant discussion we have formulated certain principles and certain schemes for the consideration in this House under the general terms. I trust when the House hears the whole thing they will be in a position to understand that after all we have grasped the fundamentals of village reconstruction though there may be difference of opinion with regard to the details and items. I shall, with the leave of the House, just go over these few lines so that the House may understand what at least I understood, by the village reconstruction.

It is an important principle of rural reconstruction work that it should be done by the people and for the people. With this principle in mind the departmental heads have already visited the six

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly